

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-14 AF-10

OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SCCT-02 DRC-01 SSO-00 /174 W

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R 020732Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8112

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG JO IS

SUBJECT: FAHMY SPEAKS OUT ON PALESTINE

1. IN LONG INTERVIEW WITH MUSTAGA BAHGAT BADAWI, EDITOR OF GUMHURIYYA AUGUST 1, FM FAHMY DISCUSSED EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH US AND USSR (SEPTTEL) AND HAD SOME SHARP WORDS FOR THE PLO.

2. REASONS FOR THE EXTREME COMPLEXITY OF PALESTINE PROBLEM, FAHMY BEGAN, ARE: THE LENGTH OF TIME PROBLEM HAS EXISTED, LACK OF WORLD CONSCIENCE, ISRAELI AGGRESSIVENESS, AND, "WHAT
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IS PAINFUL TO STATE, THE PALESTINIANS, OR TO THE PRECISE,

THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS." THERE IS, PERHAPS, A FIFTH GRAVE REASON, HE ADDED, BROUGHT INTO BEING BY THAT "TALKATIVE NATION"; LONG KNOWN AS "THE ARAB NATION". FOLLOWING RECENT ARAB SUCCESSOR SUCH AS OCTOBER WAR, UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT VERBAL BALLYHOO, "UNFORTUNATELY, WERE BACK TO TALKING, (BERBIL) AUCTIONEERING. ACCUSATIONS, AND CASTING ASPERSIONS*"

3. ASKED

ABOUT PLO/GOJ PROBLEM, FAHMY "HEAVED A DEEP SIGH" AND RECALLED SADAT'S JULY 23 SPEECH IN WHICH PRESIDENT DECLARED HIGHER INTEREST IMPOSES COORDINATION ON PLO AND GOJ, "NO MATTER HOW CRUEL AND BITTER THE MEMORIES. DURING SADAT/HUSAIN DISCUSSION, FOR FIRST TIME "WE OBTAINED FROM JORDAN RECOGNITION THAT PLO IS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINE AND THE PALESTINIANS...DOES NOT RPT NOT THIS MEAN PLO HAS THE LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF PALESTINE AND REPRESENT IT?, FAHMY ASKED RHETORICALLY. JORDAN, HE CONTINUED, HAS AGREED THAT PLO WOULD BE INDEPENDENT PARTY AT GENEVA TALKS. FURTHER, "JORDAN ACCEPTED (IDEA); THAT WEST BANK CONSTITUTES 'NUCLEUS' OF THE HOPED FOR, RESTORED PALESTINE AND THAT IT WOULD BE WRESTED FROM HKJ*" ISN'T IT TRUE THAT "ALL THESE ARE STEPS FORWARD?"

4. CONTINUING HIS CATALOGUE OF

EGYPTIAN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PLO, FAHMY NOTED "I BROUGHT BROTHER YASIR AND COMRADE GROMYKO TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CAIRO A FEW MONTHS AGO AND WE ISSUED FIRST OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO INCLUDE SOVIET REFERENCE TO PLO AND TO YASIR AS ITS CHAIRMAN." SADAT, IN TALKS WITH ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN LEADERS, ACHIEVED FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHTS, FAHMY ADDED.

5. IN EXTRAORDINARILY FORT-

RIGHT FASHION, FAHMY CONCLUDED:

"IS IT NOT RPT NOT HIGH TIME FOR THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE TO RISE ABOVE DIFFERENCES AND DISPUTES? HOW MUCH WE WISH THIS...FOR OUR SACRIFICES FOR PALESTINE AND FOR THE RETURN OF PALESTINE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WILL REMAIN CONTINUOUS; IS IT NOT RPT NOT HIGH TIME THAT SOME OF THE AUCTIONEERS IN SOME OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES RISE TO THE LEVEL OF THE SITUATION." EGYPT REMAINS THE STRONGHOLD OF ARABISM. "...THIS IS NOT RPT NOT 'LEADERSHIP' AS MUCH AS IT IS PUTTING UP WITH THE BURDENS (OF LEADERSHIP)."

6. COMMENT: WE NOTE RATHER CLEVER WORDING OF KEY SENTENCE INTERPRETING ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE, I.E. "DOES THIS

NOT RPT NOT

MEAN PLO HAS THE LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF PALESTINE
AND REPRESENT IT." BY OMITTING "PALESTINIANS" FROM THIS
FORMULATION, HE DOES, INDEED, OFFER AN EGYPTIAN "ACHIEVEMENT" TO

THE PLO, WHICH DOES. AFTER ALL, CLAIM TO REPRESENT "PALESTINE".;
THIS SEEMS TO US A DIPLOMATICAL Y
ADROIT WAY OF AVOIDING MESSY
PROBLEM OF WHO REPRESENTS WHAT PALESTINIANS.

7. SINCE OCTOBER WAR, GOE HAS MOVED
VERY GRADUALLY TOWARD POINT
REACHED BY FAHMY'S STATEMENT ABOVE. WITH CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC
RELATIONS SKILL HE HAS PREPARED EGYPTIAN AND ARAB AUDIENCES FOR
THIS VIRTUALLY UNIQUE ADMONITION TO PALESTINIAN LEADERS THAT
LEADERSHIP IS MORE THAN TERRORISM, WISHFUL THINKING, AND EMOTIVE
RHETORIC.; FAHMY IS SAYING THAT STATESMANSHIP REQUIRES THE
COURAGE TO COMPROMISE. HE IS CERTAINLY UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT
HE CAN CARRYLO AS A WHOLE WITH HIM. WE ASSUME
HE IS BETTING
ON THOSE INTELLIGENT, SENSIBLE, PATRIOTIC PALESTINIANS,
REPRESENTED BY ARAFAT, TO GRASP THE NETTLE OF PRACTICAL POLITICS.
IMPLICATION IS CLEAR THAT IF PLO PROVES INCAPABLE OF RISING TO
CHALLENGES OF DIPLOMACY, RESPONSIBLE ARAB STATESMEN MAY HAVE
TO CONSIDER PAINFUL STEP OF PROCEEDING WITHOUT PALESTINIAN
PARTICIPATION.
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